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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Request for subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/49/329; A/C.5/49/57)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), said that the Secretary-General had recommended maintenance of an annual subvention of $220,000 for UNIDIR for the biennium 1994-1995. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/230, had already approved a subvention of $220,000 for 1994. In addition, generous contributions had been received from Member States. The Secretary-General believed that a similar subvention should be made in 1995, in respect of which no additional appropriation would be required since the amount was already included in the programme budget. Further, the programme support cost level in respect of UNIDIR had been established, on a concessional basis, at 5 per cent, a level which should be maintained.

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee was recommending approval of a subvention of $220,000 for UNIDIR for 1995. The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, had already appropriated $440,000 for the biennium, the amount of $220,000 for 1995 being the final amount in the current biennium.

3. The Advisory Committee wished to recall its invitation to the Secretary-General (A/49/7/Add.10, para. 24), in the context of his proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, to propose criteria to determine if regional institutes should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. UNIDIR should be included in the Secretary-General's proposals.

4. Ms. SHEAROUSE (United States of America) said that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 44/201 and 46/185, had called upon the Secretary-General to seek to increase the level of voluntary contributions to UNIDIR, with the aim of making regular budget support unnecessary. She wished to know whether anything was being done to increase the level of voluntary contributions so that further subventions would not be necessary.

5. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that while the level of voluntary contributions had greatly increased, it would not be opportune to cease to provide the regular budget subvention.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/49/57); and that it should decide to keep under review the level of support costs charged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

7. It was so decided.

Pension scheme for the members of the International Court of Justice (A/49/7/Add.11; A/C.5/49/8)

8. Mrs. BRZAK METZLER (Office of Human Resources Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the pension scheme for the members of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), drew attention to the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report. As indicated in paragraph 20, should the General Assembly approve the proposals the financial implications of the changes proposed in the conditions of services of members of the Court were estimated at $427,100 for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: pension scheme for the members of the International Court of Justice (A/C.5/49/8); and that it should endorse the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in document A/49/7/Add.11.

10. It was so decided.

11. Mr. TOYA (Japan) said that in view of the special expertise required by members of the International Court of Justice the proposals should be given special consideration.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

(d) OTHER HUMAN RESOURCES QUESTIONS (continued) (A/C.5/49/58)

12. Mr. SCOTTI (France) said that, in line 3 of the draft decision in the annex to document A/C.5/49/58, the word "approve" should be replaced by "recommend".

13. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision, as orally amended.

14. It was so decided.

15. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that her delegation, while not objecting to adoption of the draft decision, would have welcomed more background information. It also seemed that the Sixth Committee might have been a more appropriate forum for consideration of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.